

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 17635

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TAGS: PINR, TGEN, JA

SUBJECT: THE JAPAN SCIENCE SOCIETY (JSS)

REF: TOKYO A-392

FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS FURNISHED AS ADJUNCT TO REFAIR.
RYOICHI SASAGAWA, 77, WEALTHY ENTREPENEUR AND OWNER OF
A MOTORBOAT RACING EMPIRE, IS REGARDED AS ONE OF JAPAN'S
FOREMOST SPONSORS OF EXTREME ULTRA-NATIONALIST CAUSES.
A CLASS-A WAS CRIMINAL WHO SERVED FOUR YEARS IN PRISON
DURING THE OCCUPATION, SASAGAWA IN 1931 FOUNDED A
RIGHTWING NATIONALIST POLITICAL PARTY WHICH CONDONED
POLITICAL ASSASSINATION AND URGED WAR BETWEEN THE
UNITED STATES AND JAPAN. HE RE-EMERGED AFTER THE
OCCUPATION AS A BUSINESSMAN AND ORGANIZER OF VARIOUS
NEO-NATIONALIST MOVEMENTS. IN THE INTERVENING YEARS,
HE HAS EXPANDED HIS INFLUENCE INTO MANY AREAS AND IS
NOW ADVISOR OR DIRECTOR OF OVER THREE DOZEN ORGANIZATIONS,
INCLUDING GROUPS PROMOTING SCIENCE, RELIGION AND
SPORTS. HIS MOST FREQUENTLY USED TITLE IS PRESIDENT
OF THE JAPAN SHIPPING PROMOTION SOCIETY, BUT HE IS
BETTER RECOGNIZED AS THE BACKER OF MANY PROJECTS OF
A NATIONALIST, ANTI-COMMUNIST CHARACTER. THROUGH
THESE ACTIVITIES HE HAS BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH SUCH
FIGURES AS REV. MOON OF THE UNIFICATION CHURCH AND
YOSHIO KODAMA, A CENTRAL FIGURE INDICTED IN THE
RECENT LOCKHEED BRIBERY SCANDAL.
HODGSON

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